

Tom Dodson
Geographer and Environmental Consultant

Master of Arts (Geography), 1973
Bachelor of Arts (Geography), 1968
University of California, Berkeley

Tom Dodson is the President of Tom Dodson and Associates, an environmental consulting firm in San Bernardino, California. He has more than 30 years of experience in land use planning, and environmental and resource management, with special expertise in CEQA, NEPA, regulatory compliance, expert witness testimony and communication/facilitation for resolution of environmental issues. He personally prepares environmental documentation for a broad variety of projects and acts as a resource person in working with clients, governmental agencies, and decision-makers in finding solutions to complex problems. He negotiates with regulators at the state and local level, designs formal presentations to committees.

Mr. Dodson has served as a facilitator in resolving environmental issues for several agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management, San Bernardino County, City of San Bernardino, and other agencies. Mr. Dodson also provides expert witness testimony on land use and environmental issues on a variety of court cases, primarily in CEQA litigation, takings, land use and regulatory cases. He serves as program manager on most projects undertaken by the firm and maintains close contacts with subconsultants and specialists who can provide technical information, as needed, in a timely manner. Mr. Dodson also serves as the environmental advisor/consultant to the San Bernardino County Local Agency Formation Commission, San Bernardino International Airport Authority, Inland Valley Development Agency, Inland Empire Utilities Agency, the San Bernardino County, Office of Special Districts, Cities of Murrieta and El Monte, and several other agencies.

Previous Experience:

United States Navy: August 1976 -April 1985.

Served as the civilian Environmental Protection Officer for the Naval Weapons Center (now the Naval Air Weapons Station), China Lake, California, for nine years. This was a GS-13 supervisory position with responsibility for managing the total environmental program for a 1700 square mile (1.1 million acres) naval research laboratory and test facility located in the Upper Mojave Desert. Maintained a secret security clearance at China Lake and was cleared for certain color coded projects that required environmental review. Security clearance not currently in place, but no events have

transpired in the intervening eight plus years that would prevent it from being reissued if required.

Major accomplishments and responsibilities included:

- a. Management of a staff of ten with responsibility for compliance with all federal, state and local environmental laws and regulations. Preparation and development of all environmental documentation, initial studies, comprehensive environmental impact statements, and compliance strategies.
- b. Represented the Center before decision-making bodies, including the state legislature and county boards of supervisors.
- c. Provided key expert witness support during litigation in federal court regarding a burro management plan contested by the Fund for Animals.
- d. Development of the Center's hazardous waste management program - the first of its kind in the Navy. The Plan's methodology was later adopted for all Navy facilities on the West Coast.
- e. Two-time recipient of the Center Commander's Award for Excellence in mission support.

Sonoma County: April 1976 to August 1976.

Served as a private environmental consultant to Sonoma County. Developed a Geothermal Coordination Program between agencies with regulatory jurisdiction over geothermal energy development in the County.

San Bernardino County: May 1974 to April 1976.

Environmental Specialist for San Bernardino County supervising a staff of eight in compliance with state and local guidelines. Assisted in the development of a national award-winning streamlining of the environmental guidelines for the local level. Served as technical advisor to the Environmental Review Committee. Made presentations to the Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission and to the public.

Private Consultant: June 1970 to May 1974.

Consultant to private industry conducting environmental evaluations and resource analyses, including major land development projects in California, Minnesota, and Florida. Served as visiting lecturer in environmental planning in fall quarters of 1972 and 1973 at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

Professional and Community Affiliations:

Association of Environmental Professionals
California Nature Conservancy - Conservator Program
San Bernardino County Museum Association
San Bernardino Area Chamber of Commerce
University of California at Berkeley Alumni Association

Recent Project Experience (1985-Present, Selected):

San Bernardino County Local Agency Formation Commission

Beginning in 1989 Tom Dodson & Associates became the sole environmental consultant for the San Bernardino County Local Agency Formation Commission (SBCLAFCO). For the past 13 years Tom Dodson has served as the individual overseeing and coordinating all environmental determinations for the SBCLAFCO. This has included review of all reorganizations, annexation, detachments, incorporations and other actions by the Commission. Over 400 CEQA determinations have been overseen by Tom Dodson on behalf of and in coordination with the SBCLAFCO staff. The vast majority of LAFCO projects have consisted of exemptions, but many negative declarations have been prepared and a few environmental impact reports have been coordinated on behalf of LAFCO. Tom Dodson is considered an expert on CEQA compliance for LAFCO projects and has made several presentations at CAL LAFCO annual meetings and on behalf of the SBCLAFCO.

Negotiation of Stream Alteration Agreements and Section 404 Permits

Since 1988 Mr. Dodson has been involved in more than 20 projects that required acquisition of Stream Alteration Agreements from the State Department of Fish and Game and Section 404 Permits from the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. This includes several permits in Big Bear Valley, along the Santa Ana River and its tributaries, and southern California in general.

Burlington Northern Santa Fe Projects

Over the past ten years Mr. Dodson has conducted the environmental assessments and provided regulatory consulting support for more than a dozen projects with BNSF. This includes projects in San Diego, Orange, Los Angeles, and San Bernardino Counties and the Central Valley of California. Projects have ranged from track improvements to new facilities for maintenance of train equipment, two extensive double and triple tracking of existing rail corridors in the San Joaquin Valley and in Los Angeles (Hobart Yard to Fullerton). Detailed environmental documents (Categorical and Statutory Exemptions; Negative Declarations; and Program Environmental Impact Report) and regulatory consulting responsibilities (endangered species, regulatory permits for discharge of fill, and biological and cultural resources surveys). Documents have been prepared for individual cities, counties and for the California Department of Transportation Division of Rail. The most recent environmental document completed for Division of Rail was the Program EIR for the Third Main Track and Seven Grade Separations from Hobart (City of Commerce) to Basta (City of Fullerton)

City of San Bernardino, Various CEQA/NEPA Documents

Over the past four years, TDA has prepared environmental documents to comply with both the California Environmental Quality Act and National Environmental Policy Act for a variety of City projects. These projects include: Orange Show Road Extension, involving two bridges, one over Twin Creek and the other over the Santa Ana River; the downtown movie theater sponsored by the City Economic Development Agency (EDA); installation of sewer lines along Cajon Boulevard for the City EDA; and most recently, several demolition projects, also initiated and carried out by the EDA. All of these documents have been successful in accomplishing full compliance with both CEQA and NEPA and other regulatory requirements, such as Corps of Engineers and endangered species permits.

Searles Valley Minerals (formerly IMC Chemicals)

Environmental consultant on a variety of projects in the Trona-Boron area, including the Argus Cogeneration Facility Ash Disposal Site and the Mining/Reclamation Plan for the Panamint Valley limestone quarry operation.

Inland Valley Development Agency (IVDA)/San Bernardino International Airport Authority (SBIAA) (1992-Present)

Environmental manager for the IVDA and SBIAA in their role as the redevelopment and reuse agency for Norton Air Force Base located in San Bernardino, California. Assisted the Air Force in completing its first and only air conformity determination for reuse of a closing military base. The analysis was used in presentations to the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to revise the Conformity Regulations to exclude transfers of military bases from conformity findings. TDA has been involved in every facet of base closure, working closely with the Air Force Base Closure Agency (AFBCA) at Norton and in Washington D.C. to complete the Final EIS and issue the Record of Decision. This support effort includes endangered species management programs at the former Base and consultations with the State and Federal government under endangered species laws.

Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA, 1999-Present)

As environmental consultant to the IEUA, TDA prepared the Program EIR for the Optimum Basin Management Program which evaluated the whole program that is proposed to be implemented to remove groundwater contamination from the Chino Basin. This EIR was prepared to meet court mandated deadlines and was certified in a timely manner by the IEUA. TDA has continued consulting with IEUA and recently completed a Program EIR for IEUA Facilities Masters Plans, which examined the long-term implementation of wastewater, recycled water and organic waste management programs. TDA is currently working with ASL/Tetra Tech to implement a major expansion in the organic composting operations currently being carried out by IEUA as part of the Chino Basin groundwater aquifer remediation. Site selection, due diligence, and CEQA documentation are part of the tasks that TDA has assisted with on this project.

Expert Witness Support for Litigation

Beginning in 1988, Tom Dodson began providing expert witness testimony. The first case involving expert witness testimony was an inverse condemnation suit that went before the federal court regarding a Corps of Engineer rejection of a permit in the City of Big Bear Lake. Beginning with extensive efforts in front of the Riverside Superior Court, Mr. Dodson provided expert witness testimony and guidance to the court for land use development within the City of Indian Wells. Mr. Dodson was qualified as a land use expert with the Fourth District Court of Appeals. For more than one year, Mr. Dodson was successful in serving as the land use expert for development within the City of Indian Wells. In 1993, Mr. Dodson testified in a case of inverse condemnation against a property in the City of Indian Wells where the City assigned a residential designation to a parcel of land that had previously been designated for commercial uses. The resolution of the case resulted in the property being valued for commercial, not residential uses, partially based on Mr. Dodson's testimony as a land use expert.

In 1996, Mr. Dodson and other TDA staff provided expert witness testimony regarding wetland issues in relation to a takings case against the City of Lake Elsinore. This court effort was the culmination of several years of effort that resulted in TDA's client prevailing against the City regarding taking of property under a pretense that the property was wetland. Most recently, Mr. Dodson is providing expert witness testimony for the City of Redlands regarding endangered species issues in relation to a takings case. In 1996, Mr. Dodson testified as an expert regarding the desert tortoise, habitat, regulatory process to obtain incidental take permits and appropriate mitigation before the San Bernardino Superior Court.

References:

1. Kathy Rollings-McDonald, Executive Director
Local Agency Formation Commission
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2. Mark Ostoich
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3. Mr. Ross May
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4. Randy Scott, Senior Planner
Planning Department
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